

To: Dockets Management Branch (HFA -305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Md 20852

9189 '99 JUL 13 AM 11:25

From: Andrew Woodyard
1421 N. 10th St.
Boise, Id. 83702

Re: Food Irradiation labeling *RECEIVED 11 9 99 11 11 25*

To Whom It May Concern,

Requirements for labeling of food that has been irradiated must be kept in force. As an average consumer, taxpayer and voter I am not normally one to write to people such as yourselves regarding political and public health issues. However this issue calls for my attention.

Labeling of irradiated foods with terminology such as "irradiation" or "irradiated" and the radura symbol is clear and concise. Much like the recent clarification to the term involving "whole grain", these terms leave no uncertainty as to the production process involved. Alternate terms such as "cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" are unspecific as to the key element in the process that is of real concern to most consumers.

I love a nice crisp salad with my steak, chicken, fish, etc. I, like millions of others, eat one daily with my dinner. Now I understand that the healthy choice I make may not be as healthy any more because vegetables and fruit would also be subject to irradiation. I look toward that part of my diet for essential vitamins which would be destroyed during the irradiation process. Yes, I take multi vitamins but please let it not be a "horse pill".

I know the official position of the FDA is that food irradiation is safe. But I have two children now. What do we know about it's effects on them? Given the daily news coverage of underfunded government inspectors assigned to uphold public policy one has to ask; will the private companies in charge of nuclear material be properly monitored? Could we make our food just as safe by cleaning up the food producing industries in question? I bet we could. I, for one, would vote for someone who proposed that kind of fundamental fix rather than putting this type of band aid on the problem.

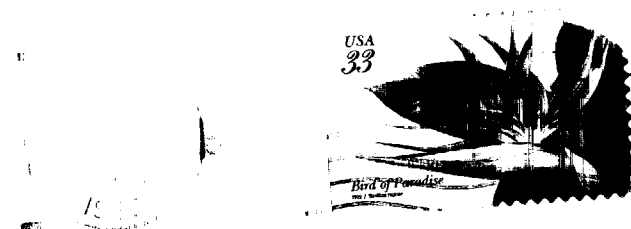
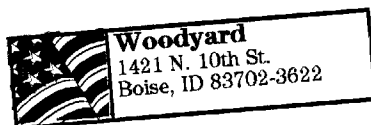
At least let the consumers decide if irradiation is for them. A free market, properly informed with clear labels will make the right decision for the majority of people.

Thank you.

Andrew Woodyard
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